

**WASHINGTON STATE
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
OLYMPIA, WASHINGTON 98504**

December 22, 2003

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

SUBJECT: Special Warning Signs for Motorcycles

Background: The 2003 legislative session created the need to provide special warning signs for motorcyclists through SSB 5457. This has come as an exception to our normal philosophy and practice of signing for the **condition** of the roadway, and not for specific vehicle types. The resultant amendment to RCW 47.36.200 **becomes effective January 1, 2004.**

The WSDOT has responded to the legislation by adopting the motorcycle warning sign as part of the MUTCD and state amendments (WAC 468-95-315). They have developed a black on orange sign that reads "MOTORCYCLES USE EXTREME CAUTION". The new sign has been designated as W21-1701 in the Sign Fabrication Manual. Copies of the new sign detail have been sent to fabricators, and the detail will appear in the January 2004 version of the Sign Fabrication Manual.

The WSDOT has developed guidelines for implementing the new legislation. These guidelines will be incorporated into the next revision of the Work Zone Traffic Control Guidelines Book, M54-44.

Types of Projects Affected: Any project where there will be grooved pavement, abrupt lane edges, steel plates, or gravel or earth surfaced roadways will be affected.

Direction: To be in compliance with the new legislation, the motorcycle warning signs must be incorporated, in accordance with the guidelines, while the specified road conditions exist during construction.

Value in Making the Change: The intent of the legislation is to provide additional awareness to motorcyclists of changed roadway conditions as they travel through construction zones. Adding these signs to the traditional signs warning of unexpected roadway conditions, will potentially reduce motorcycle accidents in work zones, and minimize liability for the WSDOT and its contractors.